

have your opinions and thoughts heard, and possibly incorporated into the plan. GOECS, and the consultants hired to analyze the data and facilitate the process, have done an excellent job incorporating into the analysis many of the offered suggestions.

The process undertaken by GOECS has enabled New Hampshire to take the first critical step in developing a model of New Hampshire's energy resources and their uses. This will enable policy makers to analyze different policy options and identify critical energy issues that are likely to affect New Hampshire's economic future and the quality of life in our state.

In short, the BIA believes that the process has worked well and we recommend that it be incorporated into other areas of government. The BIA believes that GOECS's development of an energy-planning model provides an excellent starting point for an informed discussion of New Hampshire's energy future. We strongly support further efforts by state government, with continued input from stakeholders, to refine such a model and analyze different policy options. We are confident that the data obtained during the process will be used by GOECS to craft a prudent energy plan, and by legislators to implement sound policies and legislation now and in the future.

Thank you again for affording us the opportunity to comment on such an important issue.

Respectfully,



Michael S. Giaimo, Esq.
Vice President, Energy & Environmental Policy,
Business & Industry Association of New Hampshire

Cc: Steven Camerino, Esq., Chairman, BIA Energy Affairs Committee
Richard Cowmeadow, Vice-Chairman, BIA Energy Affairs Committee

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Business & Industry Association of New Hampshire

To promote and preserve the economic well-being of New Hampshire.

September 6, 2002

Mary Ann Manoogian, Director
Governor's Office of Energy and Community Services
57 Regional Drive
Suite 3
Concord, New Hampshire 03301-8519

IN RE: BIA's Comments Regarding NH's State Energy Plan

Dear Director Manoogian, *Mary Ann,*

The Business & Industry Association of New Hampshire (BIA) appreciates the opportunity to comment on New Hampshire's state energy plan. We commend you and your office for all of the hard work and resources that you have expended in the laudable pursuit of developing a prudent and comprehensive energy plan for the state.

The BIA is concerned by the recent trend of manufacturers leaving the state and the region. This trend is clearly evidenced by the fact that the number of "Fortune 500" industrial companies in our region has declined by a third over the past 30 years. According to our members, one of the major reasons is that the cost of energy in New Hampshire and New England is higher than in other parts of the country and the world. Stated plain and simply, energy is undeniably an issue, which must be dealt with immediately, for the state and the region.

Thankfully, the New Hampshire state legislature and the Governor recognized the importance of energy on both the business and residential sectors. Consequently they passed legislation (LSR 951, HB 443, Enrolled as R.S.A Chapter 121 of 2001) calling for the development of a state energy plan, one that contemplates the issue of energy now and in the future.

The BIA believes that the law establishing an energy plan is a good one, because it creates a mechanism for acquiring information about: the supply of and demand for natural gas and electricity, the adequacy of transmission and distribution infrastructure, siting requirements, fuel diversity, energy efficiency, and conservation.

The legislation authorizing the development of an energy plan, designates the Governor's Office of Energy and Community Services (GOECS) with the responsibility of developing the state energy plan. Over the past six months, through public hearings, the GOECS has engaged the public, soliciting its opinions on this important issue. GOECS has gone to great lengths to gather opinions from individuals and companies from throughout the state, and they have held numerous public hearings at various geographical locations in the state. The BIA appreciates the hard work of the GOE, and applauds the proactive nature in which they engaged the public.

The BIA has participated on an ongoing basis in the efforts of GOECS to develop a state energy plan in accordance with the law and the intent of the legislature, and we have found the process of developing the energy plan to be constructive. We feel that there has been ample opportunity to